



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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GRANDMOTHER CONVICTED OF KILLING GRANDCHILD AT FT. HOOD

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that a federal jury in Waco, Texas, found 57-year-old Rose M. Cherry guilty of 2nd degree murder in connection with the death of her 4-year-old grandchild. As a result, Cherry faces up to life in federal prison.

"This is a sad case and a tragedy for all those involved," stated **U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton**. "Children are our most precious resource - our bridge to the future and must be protected. Those who abuse them will be vigorously prosecuted."

The jury found that between 12:30 am and 3:30 am on May 13, 2003, Cherry assaulted the child which resulted in severe bruising and numerous lacerations to her arms, hands and legs. Testimony presented during trial reflected that Cherry advised law enforcement and Childrens Protective Services that she whipped the child several times throughout the day. The girl was pronounced dead at a local hospital sometime after 3:00 am. The official cause of death was later determined to be homicidal violence, including blunt force trauma. According to the medical examiner, she counted approximately 100 marks on the child's body that had been caused from a belt and an extension cord with a knot tied into a loop.

Sentencing is scheduled for 1:00 pm on November 17, 2004, before United States District Judge Walter S. Smith, Jr.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division. Assistant United States Attorney Mark Frazier and Special Assistant United States Attorney Teresa Raymond are prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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